

# Senate File 155 - Introduced

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1161)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to local governments by creating a local  
2 government innovation commission and fund, creating a center  
3 for governing excellence, and including an effective date.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
5 TLSB 1624SV 82  
6 sc/cf/24

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. Section 8.64, Code 2007, is amended by striking  
1 2 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:  
1 3 8.64 DEFINITIONS.  
1 4 For purposes of sections 8.65 through 8.68:  
1 5 1. "Commission" means the local government innovation  
1 6 commission.  
1 7 2. "Community-wide area" means a distinct geographical  
1 8 area voluntarily formed by and comprised of counties, cities,  
1 9 or townships, or any combination thereof, all of which possess  
1 10 a degree of autonomy in a varying number of matters. State  
1 11 agencies and school districts may also participate in a  
1 12 community-wide area if joined by a county, city, or township.  
1 13 3. "Department" means the department of management.  
1 14 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 8.65 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION  
1 15 COMMISSION.  
1 16 1. A local government innovation commission is created  
1 17 consisting of fifteen voting members and six nonvoting  
1 18 members.  
1 19 a. Voting members of the commission shall be appointed for  
1 20 a term of three years as follows:  
1 21 (1) One member representing the executive branch appointed  
1 22 by the governor.  
1 23 (2) Two members representing county government appointed  
1 24 by the president of the Iowa state association of counties.  
1 25 (3) Two members representing city government appointed by  
1 26 the president of the Iowa league of cities.  
1 27 (4) One member representing community colleges appointed  
1 28 by the president of the Iowa association of community college  
1 29 presidents.  
1 30 (5) One member representing school districts appointed by  
1 31 the president of the Iowa association of school boards.  
1 32 (6) One member representing the councils of governments  
1 33 appointed by the president of the Iowa association of councils  
1 34 of government.  
1 35 (7) One member representing local law enforcement or fire  
2 1 protection appointed by the governor.  
2 2 (8) Two members appointed by the governor, both of whom  
2 3 shall possess private business expertise and who are not  
2 4 employees of any level of government.  
2 5 (9) Four members representing the general public, one each  
2 6 appointed by the majority leader of the senate, the minority  
2 7 leader of the senate, the speaker of the house of  
2 8 representatives, and the minority leader of the house of  
2 9 representatives.  
2 10 b. Four nonvoting members of the general assembly shall be  
2 11 appointed for a term of two years commencing at the convening  
2 12 of each general assembly, one each appointed by the majority  
2 13 leader of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the  
2 14 speaker of the house of representatives, and the minority  
2 15 leader of the house of representatives. However, initial

2 16 appointments of members under this paragraph shall be made on  
2 17 the effective date of this Act.

2 18 c. Two nonvoting members shall be appointed for a term of  
2 19 three years. One of the members shall be the administrator of  
2 20 the homeland security and emergency management division of the  
2 21 Iowa department of public defense, and the other member shall  
2 22 be the director of the department of economic development or  
2 23 the director's designee.

2 24 2. a. Terms of voting members and of nonvoting members  
2 25 specified in subsection 1, paragraph "c", shall begin and end  
2 26 as provided by section 69.19. Any vacancy shall be filled in  
2 27 the same manner as regular appointments are made for the  
2 28 unexpired portion of the regular term.

2 29 b. Members of the commission shall be allowed their actual  
2 30 and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their  
2 31 duties. The members of the commission representing the  
2 32 general public shall also be compensated as provided in  
2 33 section 7E.6. Per diem and expenses paid to commission  
2 34 members shall be paid from moneys appropriated to the local  
2 35 government innovation fund, except that the per diem and  
3 1 expenses of members of the general assembly shall be paid  
3 2 pursuant to section 2.12.

3 3 c. The commission shall meet in May of each year for the  
3 4 purpose of electing one of its voting members as chairperson.  
3 5 The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson or  
3 6 when a majority of the voting members of the commission files  
3 7 a written request with the chairperson for a meeting. Written  
3 8 notice of the time and place of each meeting shall be given to  
3 9 each member of the commission.

3 10 d. A majority of the voting members of the commission  
3 11 constitutes a quorum. Any action taken by the commission must  
3 12 be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting  
3 13 membership.

3 14 e. The commission is located for administrative purposes  
3 15 within the department. The department shall provide office  
3 16 space, staff assistance, administrative support, and necessary  
3 17 supplies and equipment to the commission.

3 18 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 8.66 DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

3 19 The commission shall do all of the following:

3 20 1. Promote, encourage, and advance innovation and  
3 21 creativity in local governance.

3 22 2. Develop an application and review process for local  
3 23 governance and revenue models submitted to the commission by a  
3 24 community-wide area. Results, strategies, and desired  
3 25 outcomes identified by the commission in developing its  
3 26 application and review process shall include but not be  
3 27 limited to the following:

3 28 a. Cost savings to citizens, in particular lowering of  
3 29 local government property taxes.

3 30 b. Creation of, or inducement to create, high-wage, stable  
3 31 employment opportunities for a local government's citizens and  
3 32 more effective leveraging of resources to improve competitive  
3 33 advantage.

3 34 c. Elimination of duplication of government  
3 35 administration.

4 1 d. More efficient and effective delivery of services by  
4 2 government, including eliminating duplication of service  
4 3 delivery by more than one unit of government in the same area  
4 4 and modernizing services and service delivery to meet the  
4 5 changing public service needs of the area.

4 6 e. Creation of a state-local partnership in one or more  
4 7 areas of service delivery and governance that would increase  
4 8 quality and efficiency on the local level.

4 9 3. Design an application form to be completed by a  
4 10 community-wide area seeking review of a local governance and  
4 11 revenue model. The application form shall require the  
4 12 community-wide area to demonstrate how the local governance  
4 13 and revenue model will result in reduced local government or  
4 14 state general fund expenditures, how local government fund  
4 15 revenues will increase without an increase in state costs, how  
4 16 local government services will be provided more efficiently or  
4 17 will be of increased quality resulting in greater value from  
4 18 the expenditure of local government revenues, or how the model  
4 19 develops partnerships with the state to provide increased  
4 20 quality and efficiency on the local level.

4 21 4. Utilize the department of management, the department of  
4 22 revenue, or other sources of technical expertise designated by  
4 23 the commission to certify savings projected for a proposed  
4 24 local governance and revenue model.

4 25 5. On or before January 1, 2009, submit to the general  
4 26 assembly and to the office of the governor recommendations for

4 27 legislation that would provide flexibility and freedom to  
4 28 local governments in implementing governance and revenue  
4 29 models.  
4 30 6. a. Prepare a request for proposals for establishment  
4 31 of an Iowa center for governing excellence as provided in  
4 32 section 8.68, and prepare procedures and a timetable for  
4 33 submission and review of proposals and for selection of a  
4 34 proposal. The proposal process shall be open to public and  
4 35 private not-for-profit institutions of higher education,  
5 1 either individually or in collaboration, located in this state  
5 2 and accredited by the north central association of colleges  
5 3 and secondary schools.

5 4 b. The request for proposals shall require each proposal  
5 5 to provide for employment of a full-time director and  
5 6 administrative assistant at the center.

5 7 c. The request for proposals shall require each proposal  
5 8 to specify all of the following:

5 9 (1) The number and subject area specialties of the  
5 10 research staff; the office space; the support staff; and the  
5 11 computer, library, and research facilities to be provided by  
5 12 the proposing institution or institutions.

5 13 (2) The personnel, facilities, and support provided for  
5 14 the training of policymakers, public officials, and students  
5 15 in areas including but not limited to public administration  
5 16 and management, budgetary preparation and analysis, electronic  
5 17 government, local-state government relations, and public  
5 18 policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation.

5 19 (3) The funding to be committed by the proposing  
5 20 institution or institutions.

5 21 7. Oversee and direct the activities of the Iowa center  
5 22 for governing excellence.

5 23 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 8.67 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION  
5 24 FUND.

5 25 1. A local government innovation fund is created in the  
5 26 state treasury under the control of the department of  
5 27 management for the purpose of stimulating and encouraging  
5 28 innovation in local government by providing moneys for the  
5 29 purpose of providing grants to assist in the implementation of  
5 30 local governance and revenue models.

5 31 2. Officials of a community-wide area who have submitted a  
5 32 local governance and revenue model to the commission for  
5 33 review may apply to the commission for a grant from the local  
5 34 government innovation fund to implement all or a portion of  
5 35 such governance and revenue model. Officials seeking a grant  
6 1 from the fund shall complete an application form designed by  
6 2 the commission. Minimum requirements for local government  
6 3 grant requests shall be determined by the commission and  
6 4 adopted by rule by the department of management.

6 5 3. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest  
6 6 or earnings on moneys deposited in the local government  
6 7 innovation fund shall be credited to the local government  
6 8 innovation fund. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys  
6 9 appropriated to and moneys remaining in the local government  
6 10 innovation fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert  
6 11 to the general fund of the state.

6 12 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 8.68 IOWA CENTER FOR GOVERNING  
6 13 EXCELLENCE.

6 14 1. The commission shall establish an Iowa center for  
6 15 governing excellence. The purpose of the Iowa center for  
6 16 governing excellence is to do all of the following:

6 17 a. Enhance the accountability, effectiveness, and  
6 18 efficiency of Iowa's local governments and state agencies by  
6 19 providing objective and nonpartisan research and training  
6 20 support for policymakers and government officials.

6 21 b. Integrate the research capacities of the community  
6 22 colleges and public and private universities located in this  
6 23 state and of organizations representing local governments to  
6 24 support management and policy research.

6 25 c. Facilitate dialogues among Iowa's state agencies, local  
6 26 governments, community colleges, public and private  
6 27 universities, organizations representing local governments,  
6 28 and citizens on government policy design, implementation, and  
6 29 evaluation.

6 30 2. After its creation, the center may solicit, accept, and  
6 31 administer moneys contributed to the center by any source, and  
6 32 may enter into contracts with public or private agencies or  
6 33 may enter into agreements subject to chapter 28E with public  
6 34 and private agencies in order to carry out its purposes. All  
6 35 records of the center including but not limited to records of  
7 1 donations to the center and contracts or agreements entered  
7 2 into by the center shall be public records for purposes of

7 3 chapter 22.

7 4 3. The center shall submit an annual report of the  
7 5 activities of the center to the governor and to the general  
7 6 assembly as provided in section 7A.11A by January 15 of each  
7 7 year.

7 8 4. The local government innovation commission created in  
7 9 section 8.65 shall oversee and direct the activities of the  
7 10 Iowa center for governing excellence.

7 11 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of  
7 12 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

7 13 EXPLANATION

7 14 This bill makes changes relating to local governments by  
7 15 creating a local government innovation commission and fund and  
7 16 by creating a center for governing excellence.

7 17 The bill creates the local government innovation  
7 18 commission, which is located in the department of management  
7 19 for administrative purposes. Members of the commission  
7 20 represent the executive branch, county and city governments,  
7 21 school districts, community colleges, councils of governments,  
7 22 local law enforcement or fire protection, the homeland  
7 23 security and emergency management division of the Iowa  
7 24 department of public defense, the department of economic  
7 25 development, and the private business sector. Four members of  
7 26 the general assembly are appointed as nonvoting members of the  
7 27 commission. The commission is to develop a request for  
7 28 results application and review process to review local  
7 29 governance and revenue models submitted by community-wide  
7 30 areas. The bill requires the commission to report to the  
7 31 general assembly and to the governor's office on or before  
7 32 January 1, 2009, with recommendations for legislative changes  
7 33 that would provide flexibility and freedom to community-wide  
7 34 areas in implementing governance and revenue models. The bill  
7 35 defines "community-wide area".

8 1 The bill directs the commission to prepare a request for  
8 2 proposals for establishment of an Iowa center for governing  
8 3 excellence. The bill provides that the purpose of the center  
8 4 for governing excellence is to provide objective and  
8 5 nonpartisan research and training for policymakers and  
8 6 government officials; to integrate the research capacities of  
8 7 community colleges and public and private universities and of  
8 8 local government organizations; and to facilitate dialogues  
8 9 among Iowa's state agencies, local governments, community  
8 10 colleges, universities, and citizens on government policy  
8 11 design, implementation, and evaluation. The bill provides  
8 12 that the activities of the Iowa center for governing  
8 13 excellence shall be directed and supervised by the local  
8 14 government innovation commission.

8 15 The bill creates a local government innovation fund for the  
8 16 purpose of providing grants to community-wide areas to assist  
8 17 in the implementation of local governance and revenue models  
8 18 that have been reviewed by the commission.

8 19 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

8 20 LSB 1624SV 82

8 21 sc:rj/cf/24